IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED), (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please DO NOT AMEND the claims, which are pending as follows:

1.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection apparatus which collects information via transmission paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses, wherein each of said information generation apparatuses has a generation-side information storage unit which stores the information generated by said information generation apparatuses due to a specific generation factor, said information collection apparatus comprising:

a table storage unit which stores a priority definition table in which respective priorities of said plurality of information generation apparatuses are defined;

an information collection unit which refers to the priority definition table upon reception of a notice from an information generation apparatus that is any of said information generation apparatuses and in which an amount of information stored on said generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus has reached a predetermined amount, where if the priority of said information generation apparatus is higher than a preset priority the collection unit responds to the notice by collecting the information stored on the generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus, and where if the priority of said information generation apparatus is lower than the preset priority then the collection unit disregards the notice and does not perform collection for the notice; and

a collection-side information storage unit which stores the information collected by said information collection unit.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 1 further

comprising a substitution control unit which allows any one or more of said information generation apparatuses to act as a substitute to execute the operation of collecting information, that is supposed to be executed by said information collection unit, when a given error has occurred.

3.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said substitution control unit allows an information generation apparatus out of said information generation apparatuses with the lowest priority to act as the substitute, to execute the operation of collecting information.

4.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection apparatus which collects information via transmission paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses, wherein each of said information generation apparatuses has a generation-side information storage unit which stores the information generated by said information generation apparatuses due to a specific generation factor, said information collection apparatus comprising:

an information collection unit which, upon reception of notices sent from corresponding information generation apparatuses based upon an amount of information stored on corresponding said generation-side information storage units, responds to notices from information generation apparatuses with priorities higher than a preset priority by collecting stored generated information from such information generation apparatuses, and responds to notices corresponding to information generation apparatuses with priorities lower than the preset priority by disregarding such notices by not collecting stored generated information from respective information generation apparatuses; and

a collection-side information storage unit which stores the information collected by said information collection unit.

5.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the priorities are set separately for each of said information generation apparatuses.

6.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising a substitution control unit which allows any one or more of said information

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generation apparatuses to act as a substitute to execute the operation of collecting information, that is supposed to be executed by said information collection unit when a given error has occurred.

7.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said substitution control unit allows an information generation apparatus out of said information generation apparatuses with the lowest priority to act as the substitute, to execute the operation of collecting information.

8.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection apparatus which collects information via transmission paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses, wherein each of said information generation apparatuses has a generation-side information storage unit which stores the information generated by said information generation apparatuses due to a specific generation factor, said information collection apparatus comprising:

an information collection unit which, upon reception of a notice sent from an information generation apparatus in which a given error has occurred and from which the notice has been sent responsive thereto, collects information stored on the generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus if the priority of said information generation apparatus is higher than a preset priority and disregards the notice by not collecting the information stored if the priority of said information generation apparatus lower than the preset priority, where the information generation apparatus may be any of the information storage apparatuses; and

a collection-side information storage unit which stores the information collected by said information collection unit.

9.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising a substitution control unit which allows any one or more of said information generation apparatuses to act as a substitute to execute the operation of collecting information, that is supposed to be executed by said information collection unit, when a given error has occurred.

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10.   (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said substitution control unit allows an information generation apparatus out of said information generation apparatuses with the lowest priority to act as the substitute, to execute the operation of collecting information.

11.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information generation apparatus which generates information to be collected by an information collection apparatus via a transmission path, said information generation apparatus comprising:

an information generation unit which generates information due to a specific generation factor of the information; and

an information storage unit which stores for collection the generated information if said information has a priority higher than a preset priority and which does not store for collection the generated information if said information has a priority lower than the preset priority.

12.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable recording medium where an information collecting program, with which information is collected via transmission paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses each of which has a generation-side information storage unit that stores information generated by said information generation apparatuses due to a specific generation factor, is recorded, said program for making a computer execute a process, the process comprising:

storing a priority definition table in which respective priorities of said plurality of information generation apparatuses are defined in a table storage unit;

referring to the priority definition table upon reception of notification from an information generation apparatus that is any of said information generation apparatuses, in which the amount of information stored on said generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus has reached a predetermined amount, where if the priority of said information generation apparatus is higher than a preset priority the notice is responded to by collecting the information stored on the generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus, and where if the priority of said information generation apparatus is lower than a preset priority then the notice is disregarded by not collecting the stored information; and

storing the collected information in a collection-side information storage unit.

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable recording medium where an information generating program, with which information to be collected by the information collection apparatus via a transmission path is generated, is recorded, said program for making a computer execute a process, the process comprising:

generating information based on a specific generation factor of the information; and

storing for collection the generated information if said information has a priority higher than a preset priority and not storing for collection the generated information if said information has a priority lower than the preset priority.

14.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection method for centrally collecting log information from log generating computer systems, the method comprising:

at a collecting computer system, receiving notices from the log generating computer systems indicating that a respective log is available for collection, and responsive to the notices collecting logs from notice-sending log generating computer systems that the collecting computer system determines to have a priority that is higher than a preset priority and disregarding the notices from notice-sending log generating computer systems that the collecting computer system determines have a priority that is lower than the preset priority by not collecting logs from those systems.

15.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection method according to claim 14, wherein a log of a given log generating computer is prioritized for collection relative to another log of the given log generating computer based on at least one of predefined priorities of the respective logs and categories of occurrences captured by the respective logs.

16.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection method according to claim 15, wherein a log comprises entries corresponding to occurrences on its respective log generating computer, and where some occurrences are errors on such log generating computer.

17.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection method according to

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claim 15, wherein a log becomes available for collection at a log generating computer system based on a size of the log.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information collection method according to claim 16, wherein a log is collected or made available for collection based on a size of the log.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of collecting information on a network from a plurality of log generating computer systems, comprising:

on each of the log generating computer systems each having a plurality of different logs:

responsive to detection of occurrences of errors and other logged events, entering a log entry into one of the logs of a type corresponding to a type of the respective error or other logged event; and

based on a size and priority of one of the logs of the log generating computing system, causing the log to be available to be collected by a central collecting computer that collects logs from the log generating computer systems; and

on a log collecting computer system, storing a threshold collection priority, and determining whether or not to perform a collection of the respective logs available for collection by comparing the threshold collection priority to collection priorities of the log generating computer systems having the logs available for collection.